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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,230	01/05/2007	Masaaki Ino	57419/E349	4946
23363	7590	01/28/2010		
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP			EXAMINER	
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PASADENA, CA 91109-7068				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1616	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/28/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/573,230

Applicant(s)

INO ET AL.

Examiner

LUKE E. KARPINSKI

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/22)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/30/2009

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/23/2009 has been entered.

Claims

Claims 1-4 are canceled.

Claims 5-22 are under consideration in this action.

Rejections

Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

New Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Applicant Claims
2. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
3. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue, and resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. Claims 5-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 4,343,751 to Kumar in view of USPN 5,415,131 to Dodman and USPN 6,444,742 to Rong et al.

Applicant Claims

Applicant claims a formulation comprising an insect derived pheromone and a substrate.

Applicant also claims specific substrates and preparation steps thereof and a specific percentage of pheromone within said substrate.

Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)

Kumar teaches clay materials impregnated with a variety of substances (abstract), that said clays may be calcined (col. 2, lines 30-35 and col. 4, lines 15-25), and that said clays may be a carrier to insecticides such as insect pheromones (col. 2, lines 45-50 and col. 8, lines 25-27), as pertaining to claim 5.

Kumar further teaches montmorillonites, sepiolites, and palygorskites (col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 5), as pertaining to claims 5, 6, and 13-16.

Kumar also teaches that said compositions may be used as insecticide carriers or cat box filler (col. 2, lines 45-50), and that clays such as montmorillonites, sepiolites, palygorskites, and attapulgitites are functionally equivalent as substrates (col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 5).

***Ascertainment of the Difference between Scope the Prior Art and the Claims
(MPEP §2141.012)***

Kumar does not teach times or temperatures for said calcining step as claimed in claims 5 and 17-22. This deficiency in Kumar is cured by Rong et al. Rong et al. teach calcining sepiolite and palygorskite clays at 350-850 degrees for 0.5-10 hours, which reads on 500-700 degrees for 5-120 minutes and from 30-60 minutes (col. 2, lines 38-50).

Further, Kumar does not teach a percentage of pheromone to use in said formulations as claimed in claims 9-12. This deficiency is cured by Dodman. Dodman teaches preparations comprising absorbent substances and pheromones (abstract), that said absorbent substances may be montmorillonite, sepiolite, or palygorskite (cols. 4 and 5, table 2, and that 0.01-5% pheromone may be used (col. 7, lines 8-20).

Further, Kumar does not explicitly disclose that said formulations are sustained release as claimed in claim 5. However, Kumar does teach that same formulations.

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rational and Motivation
(MPEP §2142-2143)***

Regarding claims 5 and 17-22, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to produce the formulations of Kumar by the calcining steps of Rong et al. in order to produce the invention of instant claims 5 and 17-22.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Kumar and Rong et al. are analogous art, Kumar teaches calcined clays and Rong et al. teach specific time and temperature parameters at which to calcine said clays. Therefore it would have been obvious to utilize the calcination parameters of Rong et al., with the formulations of Kumar in order to calcine said clays by known steps.

Regarding claims 9-12, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to produce the formulations of Kumar with up to 5% pheromone as taught by Dodman in order to produce the invention of instant claims 9-12.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Kumar and Dodman are analogous art, both Kumar and Dodman teach clays comprising pheromones and Dodman teaches percentages of pheromones to use. Therefore it would have been obvious to utilize the pheromone percentages of Dodman, in the formulations of Kumar in order to use a known pheromone percentage.

Regarding the sustained release limitation; Kumar teaches the same formulations as claimed and would necessarily act as a sustained release formulation. Where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). "When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not." In

re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Therefore, the prima facie case can be rebutted by evidence showing that the prior art products do not necessarily possess the characteristics of the claimed product. In re Best, 562 F.2d at 1255, 195 USPQ at 433. See also Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner, 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

From the teachings of the reference, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

2. Claims 5-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over International publication GB2067406 to DalMoro et al. in view of USPN 4,343,751 to Kumar and USPN 6,444,742 to Rong et al.

Applicant Claims

Applicant claims are delineated above and incorporated herein.

Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)

The teachings of Kumar and Rong et al. are delineated above and incorporated herein.

DalMoro et al. teach formulations comprising inert carriers and 0.5-10% insect pheromones (abstract), that said carriers may be attapulgitites (page 2, lines 53-58), and that said formulations are sustained release (page 2, lines 14-18), as pertaining to claims 5.

***Ascertainment of the Difference between Scope the Prior Art and the Claims
(MPEP §2141.012)***

DalMoro et al. do not teach sepiolite, palygorskite, or montmorillonite as claimed in claims 13-16. This deficiency in DalMoro is cured by Kumar. Kumar teaches that attapulgitites, sepiolites, palygorskites, and montmorillonites are functionally equivalent carriers for compounds such as pheromones (col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 5).

Further, DalMoro et al. do not teach calcination or steps thereof as claimed in claims 5 and 17-22. This deficiency is cured by Kumar and Rong et al. Kumar teaches that said clays are calcined (col. 2, lines 33-50) and Rong et al. teach steps for said calcination of said clays (col. 2, lines 45-50).

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rational and Motivation
(MPEP §2142-2143)***

Regarding claims 13-16, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to produce the formulations of DalMoro et al. with sepiolites, palygorskites, or montmorillonites in place of attapulgitites as taught by Kumar in order to produce the invention of instant claims 13-16.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Kumar and DalMoro are analogous art, DalMoro teach attapulgitas as pheromone carriers and Kumar teach that attapulgitas, as well as, sepiolites, palygorskites, and montmorillonites may be used as carriers. Therefore it would have been obvious to utilize the sepiolite, palygorskite, or montmorillonite of Kumar, in the formulations of DalMoro et al. in order to use other known carriers.

Regarding claims 5 and 17-22, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to produce the formulations of DalMoro using calcination as taught by Kumar and the calcination steps of Rong et al. in order to produce the invention of instant claims 5 and 17-22.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because DalMoro, Kumar, and Rong et al. are analogous art, Kumar teaches calcined clays and Rong et al. teach specific time and temperature parameters at which to calcine said clays. Therefore it would have been obvious to calcine said clays as taught by Kumar and utilize the calcination parameters of Rong et al., with the formulations of DalMoro in order to calcine said clays by known steps.

From the teachings of the reference, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Claims 5-22 are rejected.

No claims are allowed.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUKE E. KARPINSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-3501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Friday 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann R. Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LEK

/Mina Haghighatian/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616